

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

TRAVIS AND WILLIAMSON County

MINUTE ORDER

Page 1 of 2

District AUSTIN

Pursuant to Chapter 361 of the Transportation Code, and 43 TAC Chapter 26 (RMA Rules), Travis and Williamson Counties petitioned the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) for authorization to form a Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (Central Texas RMA). The petition was filed on September 3, 2002.

By letter dated September 10, 2002, the department notified the petitioners that the petition met the requirements of §26.11 of the RMA Rules.

The petition identifies the proposed U.S. 183-A turnpike as the initial project for development by the Central Texas RMA. U.S. 183-A is an approximately 12-mile turnpike project located in Williamson County that will connect with U.S. 183 at State Highway 45 and extend northward, parallel to (and east of) existing U.S. 183. The project will reconnect with U.S. 183 near the San Gabriel River, approximately three miles north of the City of Leander.

The board of directors of the Central Texas RMA, as set forth in the petition, will be composed of seven members, with three members appointed by the Williamson County Commissioners Court, three members appointed by the Travis County Commissioners Court, and the presiding officer appointed by the Governor.

On October 8 and 9, 2002, the department conducted public hearings in Travis and Williamson Counties, respectively, pursuant to §26.12 of the RMA Rules, to receive public comment on the proposed formation of the Central Texas RMA. Notice of the public hearings was published in the Texas Register and in a newspaper of general circulation in both Travis and Williamson Counties.

The commission finds that the creation of the Central Texas RMA has sufficient public support. The commission bases this finding on: (1) the overwhelming support indicated at the public hearings and in written comments; and (2) resolutions of support from the Capitol Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Cities of Leander, Cedar Park, Rollingwood, Jonestown, Lago Vista, Lakeway, West Lake Hills, Sunset Valley, and Pflugerville, and the Villages of Point Venture, The Hills, and Bee Cave.

The City Council of the City of Austin endorsed the petition subject to the following conditions: (1) compliance with the 2025 Austin Metropolitan Area Transportation Plan; (2) compliance with all city ordinances and other regulations; (3) that RMA members request that the state regional mobility authority legislation be amended to allow an RMA to directly participate in the development of regional commuter rail; and (4) that the RMA be a partner in all air quality initiatives and the Early Action Compact.

The commission considers the City of Austin's conditions to primarily concern local issues that, in the spirit of the RMA legislation, should be resolved at the local level. The commission encourages the Central Texas RMA to cooperate and partner with the City of Austin for the maximum benefit of the citizens of the Central Texas region.

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

TRAVIS AND WILLIAMSON County

MINUTE ORDER

Page 2 of 2

District AUSTIN

The commission finds that creation of the Central Texas RMA will result in direct benefits to the state, local governments, and the traveling public, and will improve the efficiency of the state's transportation systems. The Central Texas RMA will benefit the state by constructing needed roadway projects, such as U.S. 183-A. The Central Texas RMA will benefit local governments by increasing local control over transportation planning and through additional transportation projects that may be funded through surplus revenue earned by the RMA. The traveling public will also benefit through improved mobility and traffic safety throughout the region encompassed by the RMA. The Central Texas RMA will improve the efficiency of the state's transportation systems through the construction of the initial project, which will serve as a reliever route and will enhance mobility and safety within this segment of the state highway system and through the development and financing of additional projects in the future.

The commission finds that the initial project is consistent with the approved Texas Transportation Plan, included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, and included in the approved plan of the Capitol Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. The project is also included in the Williamson County Multi-Corridor Plan and the plan adopted by the City of Austin. The project received a record of decision indicating environmental clearance from the Federal Highway Administration on May 10, 2001. Subject to commission approval of the project under §26.43 of the RMA Rules, the commission also finds that the project will benefit the traveling public.

The commission finds that the composition of the board as described in the petition will adequately represent affected political subdivisions.

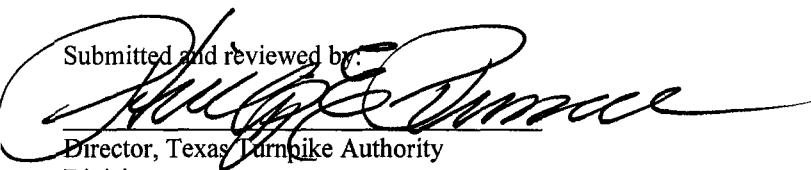
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the commission authorizes the creation of the Central Texas RMA.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the area encompassed by the Central Texas RMA shall be the combined geographic area of Travis and Williamson Counties, Texas.

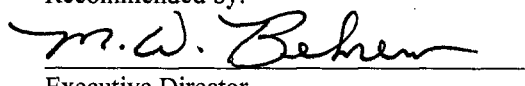
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the initial turnpike project to be developed, maintained, and operated by the RMA shall be the proposed U.S. 183-A turnpike. This order does not constitute final commission approval of the project, which must be obtained pursuant to Chapter 361 of the Transportation Code and the applicable provisions of the RMA Rules.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the initial board of directors shall be comprised of seven members, with three members appointed by the Williamson County Commissioners Court, three members appointed by the Travis County Commissioners Court, and the presiding officer appointed by the Governor.

Submitted and reviewed by:


Director, Texas Turnpike Authority
Division

Recommended by:


Executive Director

109052 OCT 31 02

Minute
Number

Date
Passed